

SPRINKLER IRRIGATION STUDIES

Numerous enquiries are being received at the Lethbridge Experiment Station regarding the use of sprinkler irrigation systems on the prairie. Sprinkler irrigation was introduced in the United States nearly 50 years ago, and in the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, in the late twenties. Stationary pipe was used in these earlier sprinkler systems, which at first were limited largely to truck gardens and nurseries, mainly as supplementary irrigation in the more humid areas, and later in irrigation orchards in the drier areas.

The introduction, in 1930, of light

weight pipe and quick couplings for use in portable irrigation systems completely changed the picture of sprinkling as a method of irrigation according to a leading American authority. The initial cost of installation was reduced greatly and the portable pipe made it possible to extend the use of sprinkler irrigation to more field crops.

Since the war the use of sprinkler irrigation has extended to new areas and many farmers in this region have shown great interest in this method of applying water to crops. In order to secure some first hand

information on sprinkler irrigation under conditions obtaining in Southern Alberta, the Lethbridge Experimental Station is undertaking some detailed studies this year. In these studies the perforated pipe sprinkler system and the rotary sprinkler system are to be compared with the ditch method of irrigation now in general use throughout the irrigated areas of Southern Alberta.

Some of the basic points to be studied will be the ability of the soil to absorb water, the best rates of application, the amount of irrigation needed by various crops, the amount of water wasted, the total cost of installation, labor requirements and finally, the effect on yield and quality.

The perforated pipe sprinkler system operates at low pressure varying from 2 lbs. to 20 lbs. per square inch, and the rate of application varies from 1 to 2 inches per hour, depending on the size or number of perforations. The rotary type of sprinklers to be used here operate at higher pressures, usually from 30 to 40 lbs. per square inch, and the rate of application may vary from about 1/2 inches to nearly 1 inch per hour. In contrast an irrigating system stream of 2 cubic feet per second will cover one acre of land 2 inches deep in one hour.

The main object of the studies to be undertaken will be to determine the value of sprinkler irrigation as a method of applying water to different crops under varying soil and climatic conditions that prevail in this region, and especially to study the economic features involved since the feasibility and usefulness of sprinkler irrigation systems for diff-

erent crops will depend largely on the cost of installation, and the cost of operation and maintenance.

Einstein Leaves Hospital



Dr. Albert Einstein, renowned physicist and mathematician, is shown as he left Jewish hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y., for his home in Princeton, N.J., after undergoing an abdominal operation. Before leaving the hospital he was presented with a large cake from nurses and the hospital staff, bearing the inscription "good health for many years to come." He sliced the cake and distributed pieces among the nurses while eating his own luncheon. When he left the hospital, his famous bushy white hair was protected by a knitted blue stocking cap.

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In May, 1945 three doctors in London, Ont., Evan V. Shute, Wilfrid E. Shute and Arthur Vogelsang, announced they had successfully treated heart and vascular diseases with vitamin E. Doctors have been divided about its usefulness ever since. While the controversy goes on, the work of the Shute Institute in London is being continued. The two brothers, Dr. Evan and Dr. Wilfrid Shute, above, carry on their work along the pattern set by the Mayo clinic in the U.S.

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Stake Play Is Success

The Taylor Stake M. I. A. presented their three act drama "Milestones" to capacity houses in Stirling, Raymond and Magrath recently. The play was an outstanding success. Depicting life from 1860 to 1912 all characters portrayed their parts

well. The play was directed by Mrs. Elodia Christensen, well known in dramatic circles of the south. Especially good were the costumes which were designed and made by Edythe Peterson of Stirling.

MUGGS AND SKEETER



BY WALLY BISHOP

